

September 27, 2017

Exhibit 4



Environmental Quality Committee

Chairmen Senator Chas Vincent

Vice Chair Senator Bradley Hamlett

Committee Members

Public Members

Mr. Patrick Holmes

24 September 2017

Chronic Wasting Disease

Today's discussion on (CWD) Chronic wasting disease is an important topic. For it's not a matter "if" CWD will penetrate Montana but when will it arrive. We are encouraged that Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks and the EQC is attempting to be proactive and not reactive.

Other Midwest states have spent millions of dollars in an attempt to stop or at least lessen the impact of CWD. This attempt to reduce CWD fell far short of its objective. Currently, Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks is struggling to stop the spread of the zebra mussel. Allocating \$10 million dollars of sportsmen and women's dollars to prevent and halt the spread of this bivalve mollusks.

Now Montana is facing the spread of CWD. Some researchers believe that because of the eradication of wolves and other Apex predators many years ago allowed or at least contributed to giving CWD a foothold and spread. As everyone is aware of the spreading of CWD will threaten tourism, hunting, outfitting and other outdoor related activities.

It would be extremely wise and financially beneficial to all interested parties and allow wolves and other Apex carnivores to assist in containing and controlling CWD. Currently, Montana is over elk objectives in many areas. Wolves are virtually being hunted with no quotas. With the exception of WMU 313, 316 & 101. We should consider dialing back the very liberal wolf harvest season

Wolves are opportunistic hunters. They have the unique ability to sense and exploit an ungulate weakness. They would prefer to kill an unhealthy ungulate then tangle with and risk injury with a healthy ungulate. Wolves are on the ground and operate twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year. And perhaps as important wolves would not cost one cent in MtFWP funds.

It would behoove Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks and this committee to consider and encourage at least the discussion of letting wolves be part of the solution to CWD then dwindling sportsmen and women dollars.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc Cooke

President

Wolves of the Rockies



Research and Articles pertaining to CWD

<http://cwg-info.org/cwg-overview/>

<http://www.timberwolfinformation.org/researchers-say-wolves-could-help-curb-wasting-disease/>

<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/>

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/researchers-say-wolves-could-help-curb-wasting-disease/article_7e666290-7365-541a-bdb1-8316fb24ef29.html

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21269999>

<http://cwg-info.org/officials-fighting-cwg-ponder-a-natural-partner-wolves/>

Nothing Follows